DELTA TANGO

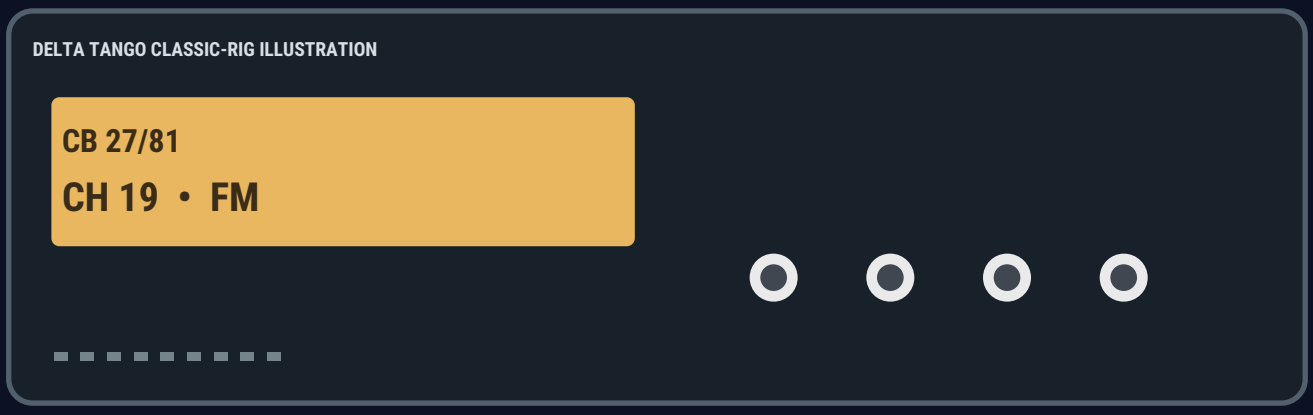
INTERNATIONAL DX GROUP

"IT'S GOOD TO TALK"

The final courtesy of a QSO / DX is a QSL

45 YEARS OF LEGAL UK CB

2 NOVEMBER 1981 - 2 NOVEMBER 2026



PLUS THE LOST 934 MHz BAND • CLASSIC RIGS • DX LOGS

QSL STUDIO • USED RADIO BUYING • 45TH ON-AIR CHALLENGE

DELTA TANGO INTERNATIONAL DX GROUP

THE WORLDWIDE CB & DX COMMUNITY • IT'S GOOD TO TALK

FREE DIGITAL EDITION

FROM THE EDITOR

Forty-five years. Still talking.

Issue 02 is a UK CB anniversary special with a modern Delta Tango twist: more people, heritage and ways to get involved, and fewer repeats from Issue 01.

Welcome back, breakers!

On 2 November 1981 legal Citizens Band radio arrived in Britain. Forty-five years later, the click of a microphone still starts a conversation. This is not a reprint of a period magazine: it is an original 2026 tribute using retro design, archive references and genuine Delta Tango group material.

Our focus this issue

We revisit the launch of British CB, celebrate the less-remembered 934 MHz service, look at collecting classic rigs, explore the group's activation logs and show members how to make their own cards and avatars.

SEND US YOUR MEMORY

What was your first rig? What was your handle? Send a radio-shack picture, an old QSL card or a story from the early days. Ask permission before sharing other people's photos.

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THE COVER STORY

Britain says 10-4

On Monday 2 November 1981, the authorised British CB radio service opened. The date appears in contemporary parliamentary proceedings.

FROM ILLEGAL IMPORTS TO AN AUTHORISED SERVICE

The announcement

In the House of Commons on 22 October 1981, Home Office minister Timothy Raison stated that authorised CB would commence on Monday 2 November. Licences were to be sold at post offices: £10 per year covered up to three sets.

A second surprise

The 1981 plan did not stop at 27 MHz. It also authorised a 20-channel 934 MHz FM service. Few people remember that UK CB once included this separate UHF option.

Not quite the American dream

Much of the imported CB equipment already circulating in Britain used different arrangements. Britain chose a specific 27 MHz FM system with 40 channels rather than simply adopting imported American AM sets. That made the beginning of legal CB a fresh start - and a source of controversy.

Why 1981 still matters

The anniversary remembers more than hardware. CB brought neighbours, travellers, families and local clubs into direct conversation. It inspired unusual handles, homemade QSL cards, radio rallies and new friendships - the culture Delta Tango still celebrates.

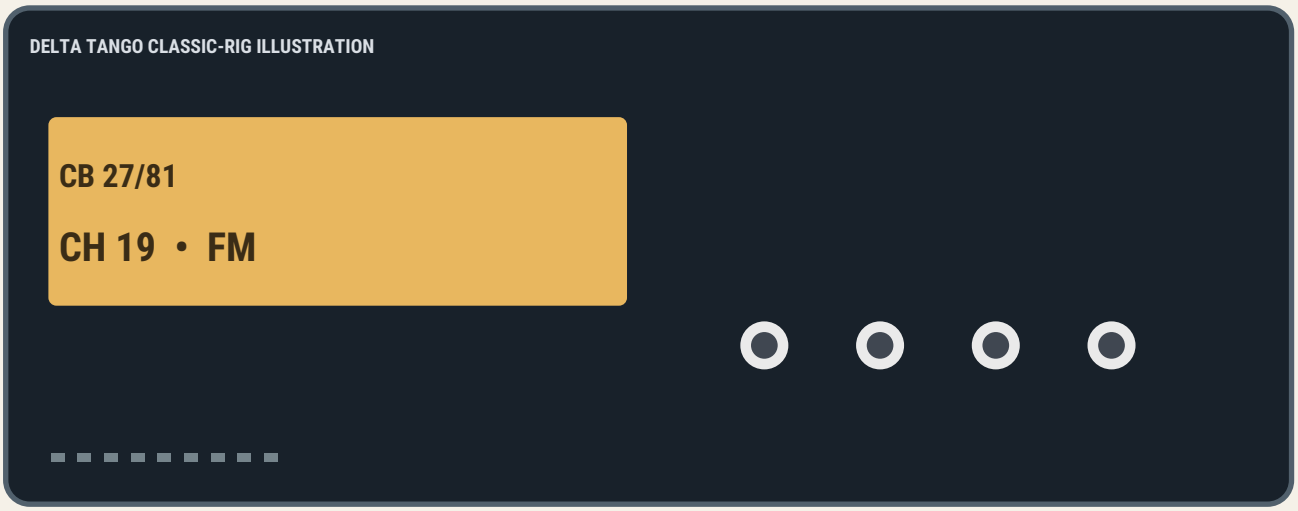
THE ARCHIVE PROVES THE DATE

UK Parliament: Commons debate, 22 October 1981; written answer, 26 November 1981. Those primary records identify 2 November as the authorised service launch. Historical launch conditions are not today's radio rules.

1981 TIME MACHINE

The first legal signals

Imagine the newly licensed operator in November 1981: an FM rig, a power lead, a microphone and an antenna - with other stations suddenly within reach.



THE ORIGINAL UK 27/81 EXPERIENCE

A new channel plan

The 40 original UK 27/81 channels ran from 27.60125 MHz (channel 1) to 27.99125 MHz (channel 40). The first legal 27 MHz sets used FM. “27/81” became the famous badge printed on many radios.

Not just a radio

The setup often involved a base station or mobile set, external antenna and a measure of patience. Some operators discovered a whole new local social world - voices from roads, houses, hilltops and CB clubs.

HISTORY BOX

In 1981 an individual CB licence was needed; today, compliant UK CB is licence-exempt. The past is worth celebrating, but contemporary Ofcom requirements govern any transmission made now.

LOST BANDS

The other CB: 934 MHz

Britain's first legal CB package included a 934 MHz UHF service. It is an intriguing chapter of radio history - not a band to transmit on today.

934

MHz FM - 20 CHANNELS AT LAUNCH

A SECOND UK CB SERVICE STARTED IN 1981

Why it interested experimenters

On a much higher frequency than 27 MHz, 934 MHz favoured different antenna sizes and paths. Later enthusiasts pursued hilltop and rooftop operation, particularly when tropospheric conditions were helpful.

Where did it go?

The service did not survive. Ofcom's historical guidance states that the manufacture standard was withdrawn in 1988 and 934 MHz CB use has been prohibited since the beginning of 1999. Old sets are collectibles, not legal CB transmitters today.

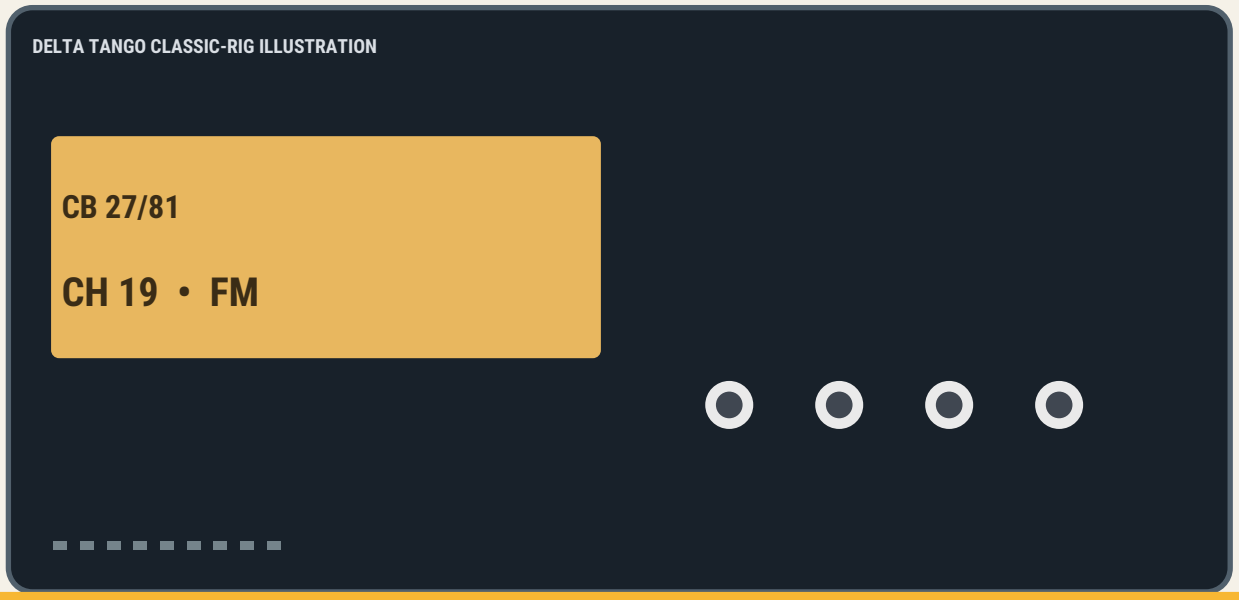
THE COLLECTOR'S NOTE

Models and period reviews can be explored through the specialist history archive at 934mhz.com. Do not confuse the discontinued UK 934 MHz CB service with present-day licence-exempt equipment elsewhere in the spectrum.

RETRO RIG BENCH

What was your first CB?

The great radio memories begin with a microphone, a power switch and the first voice answering back. Which set was yours?



THE RADIO COLLECTION CHALLENGE

Remember the everyday gear

Not every classic radio was a showpiece. A basic mobile FM set, a simple extension speaker and a carefully installed aerial gave many people their introduction to the hobby. Names on vintage equipment included Amstrad, Harrier and a host of others.

A museum, not a sales pitch

A dusty rig can look brilliant on a shelf and still fail an electrical or compliance check. Period modifications, repaired wiring and old microphones all deserve careful inspection before any modern use.

QUESTION FOR MEMBERS

Tell us your first rig, first handle and first memorable contact. A photograph, model name and approximate year can turn one social media comment into a future magazine feature.

A PROPOSAL, NOT A BOOKING

An anniversary on-air idea

The 45th anniversary deserves a conversation. Here is a simple voluntary club activity to organise - without inventing a frequency or net time.

THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY ROLL-CALL

Purpose: encourage legal, friendly contacts and share the story of British CB.
Who: any interested operators, subject to their national radio rules.
Where: an agreed, legal CB channel in each participating country.
When: a published time with a clear UTC reference, once organisers confirm it.
Record: callsign, UTC, channel, mode and location (as appropriate).

Make it easy to join

Announce the chosen channel, mode, time zone and a backup channel in advance. A short roll-call followed by open contacts often works better than a complicated contest.

Do not assume a DX channel is legal

A frequency mentioned by DX operators is not automatically authorised for licence-exempt UK CB. Choose channels and modes appropriate for the country, equipment and operating rules of the participants.

PUT YOUR SUGGESTIONS ON THE GROUP PAGE

Delta Tango website / group links

BREAKERS' DICTIONARY

The lingo that stayed

From 1981 to today, CB has always had its own unmistakable vocabulary - sometimes useful, sometimes wonderfully daft.

10-4
Message received or understood (classic CB slang).

BREAKER
A station trying to enter a conversation or call on a channel.

HANDLE
A nickname used over the air.

QTH
Station location (a Q-code used beyond amateur radio).

QSL
Acknowledgement or confirmation of a contact.

QSO
A radio conversation or contact.

73
Best regards, a widely recognised radio sign-off.

DX
Long-distance radio communication or reception.

COPY
How well a transmission is being received.

HISTORIC CONTACTS

Search the activation archive

The group's homepage highlights a 2022 activation archive. The interest is not just the numbers - it is the operators and places behind each contact.

325
CONTACTS SHOWN

49
DX DIVISIONS SHOWN

ARCHIVE LABELLED 2022 • 30DT-VC & 137DT-DX ACTIVATIONS

What to look for

Search by your club callsign or the contact information recorded on the site. An activation name, location and UTC entry can recover a moment you might otherwise have forgotten.

Turn the log into stories

A contact list becomes an article when members add a verified personal recollection: what equipment they used, where they were, who they worked and whether a card was exchanged.

ARCHIVE INTEGRITY

The homepage reports 325 contacts across 49 divisions for this particular activation archive. Treat these as website-reported historical records, not independently audited radio contacts or a current-members count.

MEMBERS IN FOCUS

Paper directory to world map

An international club once relied on printed directories and letters. Now the Members Network offers searchable divisions, callsign lookup and member-uploaded history.



111 DIVISIONS IN THE OCTOBER 2026 NETWORK SNAPSHOT

Explore carefully

The member pages let visitors search country and division entries, look up permitted public fields and browse QSL material. A directory record is not the same thing as an active member: historical entries may remain listed for years.

Privacy first

A map pin need not expose a home address. A callsign, country and broad QTH may be sufficient for a public display. Use the group's privacy options and obtain permission before publishing a member's picture or personal information.

FROM HQ TO THE WORLD

Use the public Members Network to discover divisions, the card gallery and the QTH map. Website figures are snapshots from different datasets and should not be combined into an invented live member total.

WEB TOOL SPOTLIGHT

Your callsign. Your design.

The Delta Tango QSL Card & Avatar Studio puts country artwork, callsign typography and a download control together in the browser.

01 CHOOSE FORMAT

Select a landscape QSL card or circular avatar.

02 PICK ARTWORK

Search the country library or open a JPG, PNG or WebP from your own device.

03 PERSONALISE

Add your callsign, adjust the typography and optional QSO details, then export the artwork.

> **A QSL design is not proof that a contact happened. Confirm only genuine QSOs.**

OPEN THE CARD & AVATAR STUDIO

QSL POSTCARD WALL

Postcards from the airwaves

Original images recovered from the Delta Tango website collection - shown here as historic group artwork, not as evidence of contacts by this magazine's editor.



ISLE OF MAN



MALAYSIA



PORTUGAL



GREECE

From the collection: these examples show how geography, national identity and graphic design became part of radio friendships. Explore the larger archive on the club gallery.

STATION WORKSHOP

Give your old rig a check-up

A forgotten radio is not ready to transmit just because its lights come on. Here is a careful path from loft find to safe listening.

1. LOOK BEFORE YOU POWER

Inspect supply voltage, polarity, fuse, cable insulation and signs of corrosion.

2. LISTEN FIRST

Use a suitable antenna or test equipment and confirm the receiver behaves normally.

3. CHECK THE MICROPHONE

A broken PTT, loose connector or incorrect wiring can cause faults.

4. VERIFY COMPLIANCE

Confirm that this particular set and mode meet today's UK requirements.

5. TEST THE INSTALLATION

Check antenna, feeder and matching using appropriate meters; never go near overhead power lines.

DON'T TRANSMIT WITH A MYSTERY MODIFICATION

Old radios may have been altered in ways that no longer meet the law. A specialist can check a suspicious rig before it is used on air.

SECOND-HAND BUYER

The used-rig checklist

A photograph and a low price do not tell you whether a second-hand radio is safe, functional or suitable for licence-exempt use.

Ask before paying

What model and band plan? Ask for a clear front-and-rear photograph, full model number, manual and proof of the intended UK channel/mode configuration.

What has been modified? An unverified conversion can make a set unsuitable for legal CB use. Ask whether components, sockets or power output have been changed.

Inspect the essentials

Power: correct voltage and current, fuse and polarity.
Microphone: suitable plug and PTT action.
RF: no obvious damage around the aerial socket.
Controls: channel selection, volume, squelch and display.
Proof: a genuine receive and transmit test with correct equipment, where lawful.



CLUB QSL ARTWORK



CLUB QSL ARTWORK

Find retailers and used-equipment resources via the group's searchable Equipment & Links directory. Listings are independent; prices and stock are not endorsements.

NET COORDINATOR

How to host a friendly net

Even a small radio get-together works better when one person keeps time, welcomes newcomers and leaves room for natural conversation.

Before going on air

Agree a permitted channel and mode, check the equipment and publish the time with UTC or an explicit local time zone. Decide who will call the roll, and how you will announce any change. Use only lawful equipment and power.

During the session

Open with a brief introduction and invitation to check in. Note callsigns and approximate locations if members agree, and let short reports pass in turn. Keep emergency and assistance channels clear.

SAMPLE OPENING

“CQ Delta Tango. This is the anniversary get-together, listening for stations wishing to join. Please give your callsign and location when there’s a clear gap. We’ll keep reports short so everyone gets a turn.”

> **It’s good to talk - and even better when everyone gets a chance to answer.**

LISTENING PASSPORT

The worldwide reception challenge

A fun way to join in even when the bands are quiet: listen, note what you hear, and build your own map of radio activity.

BOX 01	BOX 02	BOX 03	BOX 04	BOX 05
BOX 06	BOX 07	BOX 08	BOX 09	BOX 10
BOX 11	BOX 12	BOX 13	BOX 14	BOX 15
BOX 16	BOX 17	BOX 18	BOX 19	BOX 20

Choose the goal

Try 20 listening sessions, 10 distinct divisions, five different times of day or a week of brief receiver notes. There is no need to chase an impossible distance target; local listening still counts.

Log it properly

Record UTC date and time, channel/frequency, mode, what you actually heard and a country or region only if reasonably certain. Do not invent a two-way contact from a one-way reception report.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE

If you do hear a remarkable signal, post a short account to the group: what, where, when and what equipment. Share what you know; clearly label uncertain identifications or recordings.

OLD-SCHOOL COMPETITION

The big CB anniversary quiz

Eight questions for the group chat or the radio shack. Answers are on page 19. No prizes - just 45 years of memories and radio trivia.

1. On what date did authorised UK CB begin?

A 2 November 1981 B 2 November 1991 C 8 December 2006

2. What mode did the original UK 27 MHz service use?

A SSB only B FM C Digital voice

3. How many channels did UK 27/81 originally provide?

A 20 B 40 C 80

4. Which other band was part of the 1981 CB launch?

A 934 MHz B 144 MHz C 70 MHz

5. When did licence-exempt UK FM/PM CB arrive?

A 1995 B 2006 C 2020

6. What does QSL generally mean?

A Radio silence B Confirm/acknowledge C Wrong antenna

7. What is a DX division?

A A club geography identifier B A transmitter warranty C A power limit

8. Can you legally use old UK 934 MHz CB today?

A Yes, any mode B Only at night C No

CLUB ONLINE, AIRWAVES ALIVE

Digital tools in 2026

A club can love the old CB microphone and still make good use of the web. Here are tools already described on Delta Tango's current pages.

QSL & AVATAR STUDIO

Create a printable card or profile graphic with a callsign and country artwork.

MEMBERS NETWORK

Explore division entries, callsign search, the QTH map and albums.

EQUIPMENT & LINKS

Search suppliers, second-hand radio resources, DX tools and receivers.

RADIO VIDEO HUB

Explore the group's video page and its YouTube channel.

GROUP RESOURCES

Knowledge centre, guide pages, digital modes and practical reference links.

Online resources complement the hobby; they are not substitutes for a lawful RF contact. A club callsign is a group identity and does not itself grant permission to transmit.

ANSWERS / SOURCES

How did you do?

A fair anniversary feature needs the right answers and a trail back to reliable sources. Use the links below for the original material and current rules.

ANNIVERSARY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A • 2 Nov 1981
2. B • FM
3. B • 40 channels
4. A • 934 MHz
5. B • 2006
6. B • Confirm
7. A • Geography identifier
8. C • No

Original evidence

UK Parliament (22 Oct and 26 Nov 1981): authorised service and the 2 November 1981 start date. Ofcom CB guidance: licence-exempt operation, channel plans, modulation rules and the discontinued 934 MHz service. 934mhz.com: specialist historical chronology. Delta Tango website: current tool descriptions, archived club QSL artwork and its own reported archive figures.

Parliament debate (22 October 1981)

Parliament written answer (26 November 1981)

Ofcom CB radio guidance

Ofcom original CB guidance (PDF)

Specialist 934 MHz history

Delta Tango group website

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INTERNATIONAL DX GROUP

"IT'S GOOD TO TALK"

The final courtesy of a QSO / DX is a QSL

YOUR STORY

BELONGS ON THE AIR

AND IN THE NEXT DELTA TANGO MAGAZINE



ISLE OF MAN



NEW ZEALAND



MALAYSIA

OLD RIGS • FIRST CONTACTS • QSL CARDS • DX STORIES

SHARE YOUR CB MEMORIES WITH THE DELTA TANGO GROUP

deltatangodxgroup.com/deltatango/

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